Question and Answer Center

Q. Can a school purchase any brand of computers, with any operating system and office suite for a 1:1 classroom using Technology Plan Grant funds?

A. The simple answer to this question is Yes – with some qualifications. Any computer that meets the pricing and quality guidelines established under the Technology Plan Grant may be purchased. For example, Dell offers a computer through ESI, Inc. that meets the pricing guidelines and quality guidelines established. The computer costs $299. We understand that other vendors also offer equipment that meets these guidelines, (e.g., Tangent, HP), and schools may opt to build their own systems as well.

Software on the machine is driven by cost. The program must be sustainable – meaning that special deals or "freebies" are not acceptable. If a vendor makes a price available to a school that meets the guidelines of the program, it is expected that the same offer will be made to all schools throughout Indiana over a period of time.

Q. Can Technology Plan Grant money be used for technology integration PD?

A. Yes. As specified, 90 percent of the grant money must be used for hardware and infrastructure. The remaining ten percent can be used for other purposes allowable under **IC 20-20-13-18.**

Q. Can Technology Plan Grant money be used to add computer labs that reduce the student to computer ratio toward 1:1?

A. No. This The goal of this grant is to create 1:1 classrooms.

Q. Can Technology Plan Grant money be used to overhaul electrical facilities to accommodate 1:1?

A. The application for Technology Plan Grant funds must represent a "balanced" approach. The application should make it clear how you intend to deploy funds to promote and support classroom level 1:1 computing. This may require infrastructure improvements, but cannot be limited solely to infrastructure improvements.

Q. Can Technology Plan Grant money be used to upgrade existing network infrastructure to accommodate future 1:1 classrooms?

A. The application for Technology Plan Grant funds must represent a "balanced" approach. The application should make it clear how you intend to deploy funds to promote and support classroom level 1:1 computing. This may require infrastructure improvements, but cannot be limited solely to infrastructure improvements.

Q. Can Technology Plan Grant money be used to purchase teacher computers that match the 1:1 classrooms so they work on what they may eventually have in their rooms?

A. Technology Plan Grant funds may be used to purchase teacher computers in classrooms, especially where 1:1 is being implemented.   Technology Plan Grant funds may also be used to purchase computers for teachers not yet fully participating in 1:1, but consistent with the spirit of the legislation, there should an articulated plan to move to 1:1 in those classrooms.

Q. Can Technology Plan Grant money be used to pay for technical support contracts for the 1:1 equipment & software?

A. Yes. Ninety (90) percent must be used for hardware and infrastructure. Remaining dollars may be used for support.

Q. What happens in 3-5 years when the 1:1 machines begin to fail or become obsolete?

A. A normal replacement schedule should be followed. A argument can be made that future hardware acquisitions will fall in price below today's pricing.

Q. Who sets the group order, and why is it not available to us?

A. Group order is determined as set forth in legislation. Specifically, it is as follows:

IC 20-20-13-19
List of school corporations by assessed valuation; determination of group to receive grant
   Sec. 19. (a) The department shall list all school corporations in Indiana according to assessed valuation for property tax purposes per student in ADM, beginning with the school corporation having the lowest assessed valuation for property tax purposes per student in ADM. For purposes of the list made under this section, the Indiana

School for the Blind and Visually Impaired established by IC 20-21-2-1 and the Indiana School for the Deaf established by IC 20-22-2-1 shall be considered to have the lowest assessed valuation for property tax purposes per student in ADM during the six (6) year period beginning July 1, 2001.
   (b) The department must prepare a revised list under subsection (a) before a new series of grants may begin.
   (c) The department shall determine those school corporations to be placed in a group to receive a grant in a fiscal year under sections 13 through 24 of this chapter as follows:
      (1) Beginning with the school corporation that is first on the list developed under subsection (a), the department shall continue sequentially through the list and place school corporations that qualify for a grant under section 15 of this chapter in a group until the cumulative total ADM of all school corporations in the group depletes the money that is available for grants in the fiscal year.
      (2) **Each fiscal year the department shall develop a new group** by continuing sequentially through the list beginning with the first qualifying school corporation on the list that was not placed in a group in the prior fiscal year.
      (3) If the final group developed from the list contains substantially fewer students in ADM than available money, the department shall:
         (A) prepare a revised list of school corporations under subsection (a); and
         (B) place in the group qualifying school corporations from the top of the revised list.

(4) The department shall label the groups with sequential numbers beginning with "group one".
As added by P.L.1-2005, SEC.4. Amended by P

Q. Is there training available for Technology Directors?

A. Training sessions will be available over the summer. A schedule will be released by the end of May.

Q. Is planning assistance available for schools?

A. Yes. In addition to group planning sessions, individual assistance will be available to help schools in planning, procurement, and implementation. A schedule of meetings will be posted soon.

Q. Is professional development available for teachers who will have inACCESS classrooms?

A. The Department of Education will offer training in many areas. Professional Development will be available both face-to-face and online in an effort to provide ongoing support and development. Outreach and resources will be provided by department of education staff, contracted consultants, and practitioners in the field. Professional development opportunities will be posted on the inACCESS website as they become available throughout the school year.